

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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SAB-01 IO-10 TRSE-00 (ISO) W
----- 079062

P R 081530Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4254

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS BEIRUT 5916

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY. BEIRUT PRESS COMMENTATORS FOCUS ON RECENT STATEMENTS FROM BOTH U.S. AND EGYPT IN PREPARATION FOR SALSBURG MEETING. PRO-IRAQI "BEYRUT" SEES APPLICATION OF RESOLUTION 242, ALREADY SUPPORTED BY BOTH U.S. AND EGYPT, AS APPROPRIATE ANSWER TO EGYPT'S QUESTION OF WHETHER U.S. SUPPORTS ISRAEL'S PRE-67 OR PRESENT BOUNDARIES. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN NAHAR" FEELS PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT THAT U.S. WILL KEEP ITS COMMITMENTS TO FRIENDS WILL ENCOURAGE ISRAEL TO "PERSIST IN ITS REJECTION." PRO-SOVIET "ASH SHAAB" IS SKEPTICAL OF U.S. MIDEAST REASSESSMENT, STATING THAT IT IS "INDISPOSITION" RESULTING FROM "ZIONIST GERM" INFECTING U.S. ADMINISTRATION. PRO-SOVIET COMMUNIST ORGAN "AN NIDA" SEES REASSESSMENT AS "CLUMSY MANEUVER" TO BUTTRESS POSITION OF AMERICA'S MIDEAST FRIENDS AFTER FAILURE
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OF STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT FORD'S NEWS CONFERENCE STATEMENT THAT US HAS INDICATED TO ITS FRIENDS IT WILL KEEP ITS COMMITMENTS, CHIEF EDITOR MICHEL ABU JAWDEH OF "AN NAHAR" WRITES: "U.S. CON CONTINUE THIS TALK, WHICH IS OUTWARDLY NEUTRAL WHILE ACTUALLY BIASED. BUT THIS WILL NOT ACHIEVE ANYTHING AT LEVEL OF SUMMMIT WITH EGYPT AND IRAEL. ISRAEL ALONE WILL ARM ITSELF WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S WORDS IN ORDER TO PERSIST IN ITS REJECTION PROCESS OR, TO BE EXACT, IN PROCESS OF DEFEATING AMERICAN PRESIDENT AFTER FIRST DEFEATING HIS SECRETARY OF STATE."

3. DISCUSSING FORTHCOMING SALZBURG SUMMIT, CHIEF EDITOR SULEIMAN FIRIZLI OF PRO-IRAQ "BEYROUT COMMENTS: "EGYPTIAN QUESTIN FOR U.S. AT SALZBURG IS "DO YOU SUPPORT THE PRE-JUNE WAR OR POST-JUNE WAR ISRAEL?" A READY ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IS CONTAINED IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, APPROVED BY U.S. AND EGYPT, WHICH STATES THAT ISRAELK SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM 'TERRITORIES OCCUPIED' IN 1967 IN RETURN FOR SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS. ON BASIS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIO AMERICANS CAN ANSWER THAT THEY DO NOT SUPPORT ISRAELI EXPANSION BUT THAT THEY DO SUPPORT SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS FOR ISRAEL. THIS IS NOT OBJECTED TO BY STATES ACCEPTING SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION NOR THE AMERICAN ANSWER. IT IS APPLICATION OF A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION PASSED MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS AGO."

4. PRO-SOVIET "ASH SHAAB" COMMENTS: "U.S. DOES NOT HAVE TO WAIT FOR MEETINGS BETWEEN ITS PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT SADAT AND PREMIER RABIN IN ORDER TO REASSESS ITS MIDEAST POLICY...DR. KISSINGER KNOWS BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE THAT NO SECRET ABOUT MIDEAST CRISIS REMAINS UNREVEALED...IN OUR OPINION U.S. ADMINISTRATION BECAME INDISPOSED AFTER KISSINGER'S FAILURE IN HIS CONCILATORY EFFORTS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. THE INDISPOSITION RESULTS, OF COURSE, FROM ZIONIST GERM WHICH HAS BECOME LODGED IN AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AND HAS BEENACTIVATED BY DR. KISSINGER'S RECENT FAILURE."

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5. COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT DR. KISSINGER TOLD SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE U.S. IS NOT ALIGNED WITH ARABS, PRO-SOVIET "AN NIDA" ASKS: "WHAT HAS 'DEAR HENRY' LEFT FOR HIS FRIENDS IN AREA WHO, FOLLOWING FAILURE OF STEP-BY-SETP POLICY, ATTACHED GREAT HOPES TO HIS STATEMENT THAT HIS COUNTRY WILL RECONSIDER ITS MIDEAST POLICY? TALE OF AMERICAN RECONSIDERATION OF ITS POLICY IN AREA WAS NOTHING BUT CLUMSY MANEUVER TO BUTTRESS POSITION OF AMERICA'S

FRIENDS WHO HAD GONE ALONG WITH POLICY OF 'PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS'
UNTIL IT WAS EXPOSED BY SINCERE ARABS AND FAILED."
GODLEY

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